

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 025988  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02  
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 L-03  
MCE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 PRS-01 /086 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:MAR  
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES  
AF/W:TSMITH  
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS

-----110240 010309Z /72

O R 010204Z FEB 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025988

VALETTA FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST

1. ALGERIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR ADJALI CALLED JANUARY 31  
ON AFN DIRECTOR BISHOP FOLLOWING RECEIPT INSTRUCTIONS FROM  
ALGIERS TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE  
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REPORTING DEPARTMENT HAS INITIATED CONSULTATIONS WITH  
CONGRESS ON MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST (TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS  
SEPTTEL).

2. ADJALI SAID ACTION DESCRIBED BY ARTICLE CONSTITUTED  
REORIENTATION USG POLICY TOWARD NORTHWEST AFRICA AND MOVE-  
MENT AWAY FROM POSITION OF NEUTRALITY AND ADVOCACY OF

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT VOICED BY SECRETARY IN HIS NOVEMBER 8 MEETING WITH BOUTEFILKA. REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF U.S. WEAPONS IN SAHARA WOULD BE REGARDED BY SOME AS U.S. INTERVENTION, ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY NOT MILITARY INTERVENTION OF NATURE UNDERTAKEN BY FRENCH.

3. IN RESPONDING, BISHOP POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE DESCRIBED CONSULTATIONS, NOT A USG DECISION AND INFORMED ADJALI NO DECISION ON MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST YET MADE. MOREOVER, THERE HAD BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN U.S. NEUTRALITY IN SAHARAN DISPUTE, AND USG SINCERELY HOPED IT

WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT, AT LIBREVILLE OR ELSEWHERE. BISHOP DECLINED DISCUSS CONTENT OF CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS, NOR TO CONFIRM PROVISIONS OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO.

4. ADJALI RESPONDED THAT IN INITIATING CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS DEPARTMENT APPEARED TO FAVOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. BISHOP REPEATED THAT ONLY CONSULTATIONS HAD OCCURRED AND NO USG DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

5. TURNING CONVERSATION TO FRENCH ROLE, ADJALI SAID GOA HAD LEARNED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING, CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT CARTER AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY HAD NOT OBJECTED TO FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION IN NORTHWEST AFRICA AND INDEED HAD BEEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THIS INTERVENTION. AFN DIRECTOR REPLIED HE NOT IN POSITION TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT'S TALKS IN PARIS BUT THAT, AS ALGERIANS HAD BEEN INFORMED BOTH IN ALGIERS AND WASHINGTON, USG HAD NOT BEEN SURPRISED TO SEE FRENCH INTERVENE MILITARILY TO PROTECT FRENCH NATIONALS AGAINST AN ARMED GROUP WHICH HAD CROSSED AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER TO THREATEN THEIR SAFETY, ESPECIALLY AS SUCH ACTION HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY PARIS AND OCCURRED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN STATES.

6. ON DEPARTING ADJALI SAID HIS EMBASSY WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE ALGIERS THAT USG REMAINS NEUTRAL ON SAHARA DISPUTE BUT THAT HE ANTICIPATED SOME SKEPTICISM WITHIN GOA. IN A PASSING AND PERHAPS UNRELATED REMARK, HE SAID USG COULD BE SURE GOA WOULD NOT ALLOW SOVIETS TO ESTABLISH MILITARY BASES IN ALGERIA. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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